The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment
A Force for Peace Enforcement Operations

by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph G. Dodd, Jr.

Recent events in Somalia, Cambodia, Bosnia, and Macedonia have shown the need for forces trained and ready to conduct peace enforcement operations. A U.S. Army Infantry School Draft White Paper published in August 1993, "The Application of Peace Enforcement Operations at Brigade and Battalion," defines peace enforcement as a form of combat, armed intervention, or the physical threat of armed intervention that, in most cases, is pursuant to international license authorizing the coercive use of military power to compel compliance with international sanctions or resolutions. The primary purpose of peace enforcement is the maintenance or restoration of peace under conditions broadly defined in the international community (Draft White Paper, page 2). This White Paper lists light infantry, armored, and aviation forces as maneuver forces that are suitable for peace enforcement operations. The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment is another maneuver force that is organized and trained for these missions and may be

the best suited for these types of operations.

Just as the Army leadership directed the publishing of a White Paper to provide a doctrinal foundation for future writing and training in the peace enforcement arena, the Army leadership also recognized the need to train forces that might be deployed to conduct these operations. Hence, the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana, conducted its first Peace Enforcement Rotation in November 1993. Units from the 2d ACR, recently restationed at Fort Polk to be the XVIII Airborne Corps' cavalry regiment and to augment the JRTC OPFOR, participated in this rotation and will participate in future peace enforcement rotations. Two cavalry troops portrayed two belligerent forces and were required to conduct certain specific tasks associated with peace enforcement operations, which included conducting screens and reconnaissance patrols, establishing and manning road blocks, conducting convoy security operations,
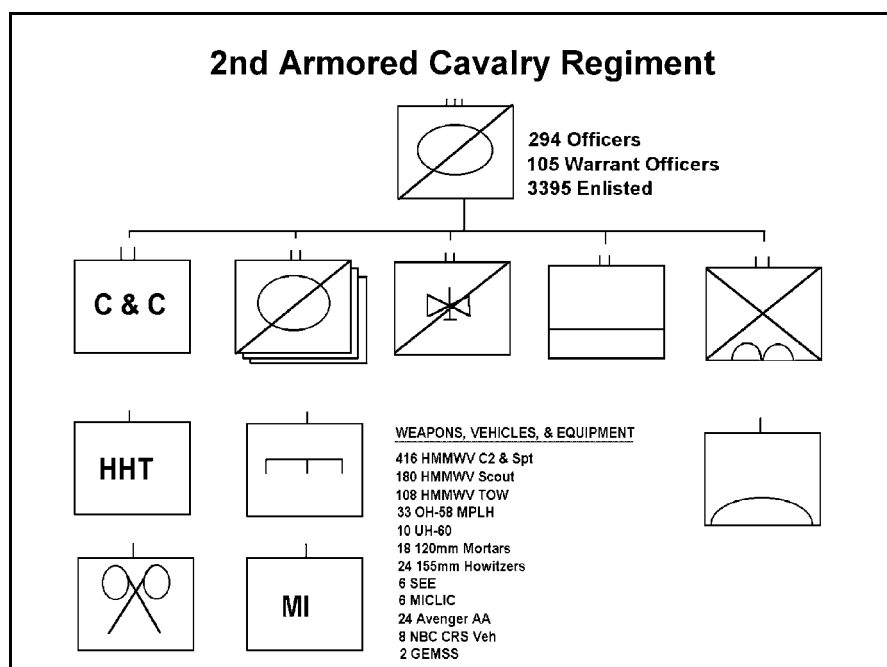
and interfacing with non-government organizations. Based on these experiences, and considering requirements outlined in the U.S. Army's recent White Paper on peace enforcement operations, cavalry squadrons in the 2d ACR are well suited for these operations due to their deployability, versatility, and if necessary, lethality. The units are especially suited for establishing the lodgment, expanding the lodgment, establishing conditions to stop hostilities, and establishing conditions for the exit of forces as listed in the framework for peace enforcement operations.

2d ACR Organization

The 2d ACR has three cavalry squadrons, a regimental aviation squadron, a regimental support squadron, military intelligence company, chemical company, ADA battery, engineer company, and headquarters and headquarters troop. Each cavalry squadron has three cavalry troops, an antitank company, and a howitzer battery equipped with eight towed 155-mm howitzers. The cavalry troop has two scout platoons, each equipped with 10 hard-topped HMMWVs (M1025/M1026) with five M2 .50-cal heavy machine guns and five MK-19 40-mm machine guns. Each troop also has two antitank platoons, with each platoon having four HMMWV-mounted TOWs. Each cavalry troop also has two 120-mm mortars. The antitank company is organized into three antitank platoons, each with four HMMWV-mounted TOWs.

2d ACR in the Framework of Peace Enforcement Operations

Establishing the Lodgment — 2d ACR forces are organized and equipped to establish the lodgment after lead forces have secured the entry point. The cavalry squadrons are trained to conduct security patrolling, conduct force protection, establish

2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment

294 Officers
105 Warrant Officers
3395 Enlisted

C & C

HHT

MI

WEAPONS, VEHICLES, & EQUIPMENT
416 HMMWV C2 & Spt
180 HMMWV Scout
108 HMMWV TOW
33 OH-58 MPLH
10 UH-60
18 120mm Mortars
24 155mm Howitzers
6 SEE
6 MICLIC
24 Avenger AA
8 NBC CRS Veh
2 GEMSS

command, control, and communications facilities, protect the logistics build-up, and establish checkpoints and roadblocks to control entry into the lodgment area. Additionally, the 2d ACR is capable of conducting link-up and relief operations with SOF elements which will most likely be posted at key choke points in the initial stages of the operation.

Expanding the Lodgment — Expanding the lodgment is the 2d ACR's most likely METL task. In addition to security patrolling, squadrons are trained to conduct area, zone, and route reconnaissance in order to expand the lodgment to provide protection for combat, combat support, and combat service support elements that will continue to arrive in the lodgment area.

Establishing Conditions to Stop Hostilities — The first step in stopping hostilities is the separation of belligerents. The squadrons in the 2d ACR are equipped to conduct combat operations that range from show of force to movements to contact or — in coordination with light infantry, armored, and/or aviation forces — conduct limited objective attacks to seize key terrain. As the belligerents are compelled to disengage through either coercion or combat, the cavalry units are trained and equipped to assume the tactical positions of the displaced forces, establish the buffer or demilitarized zones, and report this progress to all parties. Finally, the troops and squadrons are trained to conduct security and reconnaissance operations to maintain the separation of the belligerents.

Establishing Conditions for the Exit of Forces — Similarly, once the belligerents separate, 2d ACR units are trained and equipped to keep them apart by conducting screen and guard operations, establishing checkpoints and roadblocks to control movement into and within the buffer zone, and conducting mounted and dismounted reconnaissance patrols.

Other Requirements for Success

The Draft White Paper also discusses the requirements for fire support, air defense, mobility and survivability, and logistics assets in peace enforcement operations. The 2d ACR has all of these

assets in the regiment, either organic to the squadrons or found in the separate troops.

Fire Support — Each cavalry squadron is equipped with eight 155-mm towed howitzers (M198s), and each cavalry troop has two organic 120-mm mortars. Furthermore, the regiment's aviation squadron is equipped with 32 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters and 11 UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters.

Air Defense — The 2d ACR has an organic ADA battery equipped with 24 Avengers. Platoons are habitually associated with the squadrons, and all units are trained for passive and active air defense measures.

Mobility and Survivability — The 2d ACR has an organic engineer company equipped with six SEEs and six D7 dozers. The engineer platoons are also habitually associated with the squadrons and are trained to conduct mobility, countermobility, and survivability operations. The engineers are well trained in countermine operations to enhance mobility. For countermobility and survivability, the engineers provide expertise in constructing barricades, bunkers, and fighting positions.

Logistics — The 2d ACR is extremely well suited to provide combat service support to sustain the force. Each squadron has robust logistical, medical, and maintenance resources that allow them to self-sustain for the initial phases of the operation. Additionally, the regimental support squadron (RSS) task organizes its maintenance troop, medical troop, and supply and transportation troop to provide additional support for each deploying cavalry squadron. When the RSS deploys into theater, it has an organic materiel management center (MMC) capable of resupplying all classes of supply to include Class VII major end items. The RSS also has assets to make water in locations where the water supplies are limited or nonpotable.

Conclusion

The 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment is well suited for peace enforcement operations. Even though the squadrons do not train specifically for operations other than war, the METL training that the squadrons conduct prepares them well for peace enforcement missions.

Additionally, the squadrons continuously rotate through augmenting the JRTC OPFOR, which also enhances their collective and soldier skills. The U.S. Army Infantry School's White Paper on peace enforcement operations is an outstanding document that is well written and thoroughly researched. Readers and planners need to understand that, in addition to light infantry, armored, and aviation forces, 2d ACR cavalry squadrons are also trained and equipped for peace enforcement operations and may be the maneuver force best suited for many contingencies.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph G. Dodd, Jr., received his Infantry commission from the U.S. Military Academy in 1975. A graduate of Airborne and Ranger School (Master Parachutist); Infantry Officer Basic Course; Infantry Officer Advanced Course (Correspondence); Armor Officer Advanced Course, Army Comptrollership Program, Syracuse University (MBA); British Army Staff College (Camberley, England); and Command and General Staff College (nonresident); he is currently attending the Industrial College of the Armored Forces. His previous assignments include rifle and weapons platoon leader, 2d ID; rifle platoon leader, company XO, and S3 Air, 2-75 Rangers; battalion XO, 2-87 Infantry, 10th Mountain Division; brigade S3, 2d Brigade, 10th Mountain Division; budget officer, Army Budget Office; squadron commander, 3d Squadron, 2d ACR (note, took command of 2-1 Infantry on 8 July 1992 at Ft. Lewis Wash., reflagged 3d Squadron, 2d ACR in April 1993, changed command of 3d Squadron, 2d ACR on 23 June 1994 at Ft. Polk, La.)